1648

ARGUMENTS

Againſt the

COMMON COUNCELS ENGAGEMENT.

As Alſo,

Againſt a Personall Treaty

with the

KING.

Printed, *Anno Domini*, 1648.

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Against the

COMMON

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As Also,

Against a PERSONALL TREATY

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KING.

Printed, Anno Domini, 1648.

ARGVMENTS

Against the

COMMON-COUNCELS

Engagement, &c.

THe mercies of God towards the people of this City, in preserving them (like the *Israelites* in *Goshen*) in the midst of those heavy judgements, that have over-spread the Land, have been so great and wonderfull, as were sufficient, to have wrought a most thankfull acknowledgment, in the hearts of the most obdurate people in the World, but mercies have had a most unnaturall effect, the cares of this life, and the deceitfulnesse of riches, choakt, and stifled, the voice and cry of mercies.

The hearts of the great ones growing fat as butter, and because they have been spared, are puffed up with pride, and haughtinesse of minde, imputing their exemptions from afflictions and judgments, to the multitude of the people, to their wealth and policy; and

are now come to that ripeneſſe of preſumption (though God hath lately pluckt them out of the very fire) as by an unlawfull enſnaring Engagement once more to number their people, purpoſely to fit them for a new War; againſt thoſe whom God hath hitherto honoured in their preſervations: but God we truſt will yet turn away his wrath, which thoſe men would haſten upon this City; having already ſtirred up multitudes, who in thankfulnes, for former Mercies, boldly ſhew themſelves in oppoſition to their pernitious Engagement, and to their poyſonous though guilded bait, a perſonall Treaty; their Arguments againſt both being as followeth.

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ARGVMENTS

Against the Common-Councels Engagement.

I.

It is against the Covenant, in that it is against the priviledges of Parliament, to publish in print a debate had between a Committee of Parliament and Common-Councell, before any report made thereof, much lesse any result made thereupon by the houses of Parliament, and to endeavour the obtaining of subscriptions to that, and to engage persons in that, before the Parliament had done any thing upon that.

2.

There is one branch in that expresly against an Ordinance of Parliament, enabling Major Generall *Skippon* to inlist and raise volunteirs, *viz.* in that it is voted by the Common-Councell, that no other Forces shall be raised or made use of within the City

and

and late Lines of Communication, but by the authority of the *Militia*, by the consent of Common-Councell.

3.

It is the taking of all power from all other but that Court, to raise or make use of any Forces within the City, or Lines of Communication, yea, even from the Parliament it selfe, during the time of the Treaty.

4.

They have voted to have power to raise what Forces they thinke fit, and the Parliament not to have power to contradict or restrain them, though they shall thinke fit to raise an Army.

5.

They goe about by taking subscriptions to engage the inhabitants of the City of *London*, to pay whatsoever Forces they shall thinke fit to raise, during the time of the Treaty, and then to refer them to the King and Parliament.

6.

It is not long since such an enagagment was endeavoured, which was ill resented by the Parliament, and by them declared to be a treasonable engagement.

Thurs-

Thurſday night, the 13 of *July*, the Engagement came forth in print, Friday the afternoon, the 14 of *July*, a report of that was made in the houſe and not before, but no reſolution nor debate upon.

Here might be uumasked the deſperate hypocriſie couche in the Engagement, as in their equivocating Anſwer to the Committee of Parliament, concerning the diſpoſall of the Kings perſon (in caſe he ſhould not conſent and agree to ſuch things as ſhould be propounded for a ſafe and wel-grounded peace) but the fallacie is ſo perſpicuous, as its hoped every ingenious perſon doth ſee through it: To that preſent I ſhall forbear any further proceedings upon it.

Arguments againſt a Perſonall Treaty.

For the Parliament that repreſents the whole body of the people, to admit a Treaty with the King, that is but one publike Officer, of the Kingdom, though the chiefeſt, is moſt conequall, as putting one ſingle perſon, (their own officer, and as the caſe ſtands, one that hath raiſed and proſecuted, a moſt bloudy War, contrary to the duty of his Office,) into a ballance or competition with the people, then with what can be more unreaſonable, or oppoſite to their Freedomes. And for the Common Councell or any other as the caſe

case is to be importunate with the Parliament to admit of a personall Treaty with him in *London*, or thereabouts, in a time of such generall rising, and that for him, and so inclinable to Commotions and Tumults which they have neither suppreſt nor opposed, but rather countenanc'ſt, as in admitting *Gorings* forces so long at *Bow*, manifesteth that the ruling party in the Common Councell are really for him, and consequently that all those among ſt them who have officiously, without authority of Parliament promoted the Engagement, deserveth to be severely punished, as principall promoters of that grand and long sought for dangerous designe, of the Kings, and which appeared to be so, when his forwardneſſe to come to *London*, their personalty to treat, occasioned the Parliament to vote, that hee should not come untill satisfaction were given, for all the innocent bloud, that had been ſpilt, and that that offer of his tended to divide and distemper the people here, and to alienate their hearts from the Parliaments juſt, as now it proveth, and therefore as moſt dangerous and destructive is to be avoided.

FINIS.